

actually belonging to the several boroughs, the deaths occurring in institutions having been distributed among the boroughs in which the deceased persons had previously resided; the death-rates from all causes are further corrected for variations in the sex and age constitution of the population of the several boroughs. During the five weeks ending Oct. 3rd the deaths of 6703 London residents were registered, equal to an annual rate of 15.5 per 1000; in the three preceding months the rates had been 12.6, 11.3, and 12.6 per 1000 respectively. The death-rates last month ranged from 9.6 in Hampstead, 9.8 in Lewisham, 11.6 in the City of Westminster, 11.8 in Wandsworth, 12.1 in the City of London, and 12.4 in Hammersmith, to 19.0 in Stepney, 19.2 in Bethnal Green, 20.1 in Bermondsey, 20.6 in Southwark, 21.0 in Poplar, 21.9 in Finsbury, and 25.8 in Shoreditch. The 6703 deaths from all causes included 1659 which were referred to the principal infectious diseases; of these, 115 resulted from measles, 36 from scarlet fever, 72 from diphtheria, 79 from whooping-cough, 15 from enteric fever, and 1342 from diarrhoea and enteritis among children under 2 years of age. No death from any of these diseases was recorded last month in the City of London; among the metropolitan boroughs they caused the lowest death-rates in Kensington, the City of Westminster, St. Marylebone, Hampstead, and Woolwich; and the highest rates in Finsbury, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Poplar, Southwark, and Bermondsey. The 115 fatal cases of measles were 59 in excess of the corrected average number in the corresponding period of the five preceding years; this disease was proportionally most fatal last month in Islington, Finsbury, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Stepney, Poplar, Southwark, and Battersea. The 36 cases of scarlet fever were 20 above the average number; the greatest proportional mortality from this disease was recorded in Kensington, Fulham, Chelsea, Stepney, and Lambeth. The 72 deaths from diphtheria exceeded the average by 29, the greatest proportional mortality being recorded in St. Pancras, Hackney, Poplar, Bermondsey, Lambeth, Deptford, and Woolwich. The 79 fatal cases of whooping-cough were 15 above the corrected average number; this disease was proportionally most fatal in Paddington, Finsbury, Shoreditch, Stepney, Southwark, and Camberwell. The 15 deaths from enteric fever were 4 below the corrected average, and included 2 in Stepney and 2 in Poplar. The mortality from diarrhoea and enteritis among children under 2 years of age was proportionally greatest in Finsbury, Shoreditch, Bethnal Green, Stepney, Poplar, Southwark, Bermondsey, and Deptford. In conclusion, it may be stated that the aggregate mortality in London last month from the principal infectious diseases, excluding diarrhoea, was 60.1 per cent. above the average.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.—By will the late Miss Margaret Harker Smith, of Holmbrook, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, has left £10,000 to the Homœopathic Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, £6000 to the University College Hospital for the Cancer Research Fund, and £5000 to the New Hospital for Women, London.—The late Mr. John Sykes, of Huddersfield, has bequeathed £2000 to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.—The Leicester Infirmary will receive £500 under a bequest of the late Mr. Alfred Green.

A POINT AS TO MILK ADULTERATION.—In Scotland Sheriff Shennan gave judgment recently at Hamilton on a point arising out of milk adulteration. It was proved by the evidence of inspectors who were eye-witnesses that some new milk was in fact adulterated by being poured into cans in which a certain quantity of skimmed milk had already been placed. The milk thus mixed was then purchased by the inspectors as a sample of "sweet milk" from the dealer on whose premises the mixing took place. For the defence it was contended that as the admixture of skimmed milk had not lowered the proportion of milk fat in the article as sold below the 3 per cent. standard fixed as a minimum by the Board of Agriculture there was no offence, and that as the inspectors had seen the mixing take place they had notice of it. Sheriff Shennan convicted the dealer, holding that to diminish the proportion of milk fat in the milk by 15 per cent. was to affect the milk injuriously and injure the purchaser, and that the Food and Drugs Act was not meant to legalise the thinning down of rich milk to the minimum. The purchaser was entitled to notice if any such alteration took place, and the fact that the inspectors knew of it did not absolve the seller from the duty to give such notice. He inflicted a fine of £5.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

THE NURSING OF THE WOUNDED.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—It has been brought to the notice of the committee of the British Red Cross Society that doctors in various parts of the country are complaining that wounded soldiers are, as they allege, being nursed by members of Voluntary Aid Detachments, who are not fully trained and certificated nurses.

On behalf of this society I desire to point out that no offer of hospital accommodation which has been submitted to us, and has been approved of by the military authorities, is ever accepted unless fully trained and certificated nurses are in charge. In these hospitals the services of Voluntary Aid Detachments are utilised as probationers, cooks, and in other general ways.

If hospitals are started and utilised by the military authorities without reference to this society the doctor who is asked to take medical charge should, if he finds lack of skilled nurses, apply to the authority responsible for starting such a hospital.

I may mention that we have upon our books the names of some 1500 trained and fully certificated nurses whose services could be called upon at any time in case of need and without expense to the hospitals for which they are required.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR STANLEY,

Chairman of the Executive Committee.

83, Pall Mall, London, S.W., Oct. 19th, 1914.

THE MEDICAL REGISTER.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—May I once more ask you for your valuable assistance in reminding members of the profession that unless their names appear in the Medical Register they are not "legally qualified medical practitioners" (Medical Act, 1858, Section 34), and that the duty of notifying changes of address rests with them.

No person can "hold any appointment as a physician, surgeon, or other medical officer either in the military or naval service or in emigrant or other vessels, or in any hospital, infirmary, dispensary, or lying-in hospital, not supported wholly by voluntary contributions, or in any lunatic asylum, gaol, penitentiary, house of correction, house of industry, parochial or union workhouse or poor-house, parish union, or other public establishment, body, or institution, or to any friendly or other society for affording mutual relief in sickness, infirmity, or old age, or as a medical officer of health, unless he be registered" (Section 36); and "no certificate required by any Act now in force, or that may hereafter be passed, from any physician, surgeon, licentiate in medicine and surgery, or other medical practitioner, shall be valid unless the person signing the same be registered" (Section 37).

The Medical Register is the only official publication, and should not be confused with any of the various directories which issue circulars annually.

No one who is not familiar with the work of this office would believe the amount of trouble which is taken to keep in touch with practitioners, and to find them when touch has been lost; but unless we are assisted by members of the profession ourselves our efforts are often fruitless. In consequence of cases which have recently occurred it